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INFORMATION REPORT

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SUBJECT Planned and Actual Production and Shortages at the Elektrochemisches Kombinat, Bitterfeld

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1. Production at the Elektrochemisches Kombinat, Bitterfeld, reached a total value of about 225 - 230,000,000 DM in 1950, while the planned total was 205 million DM. The planned figure for 1951 is about 270 million DM.

2. Production figures are as follows:

a. Aluminum.

1) Present annual production of ordinary aluminum amounts to about 3,000 tons. The reconstruction of the aluminum plant is being pushed forward with great energy with the aim of achieving a yearly output rate of 15,000 tons from 1 September 1951. Further extensions are to increase production in Bitterfeld to a yearly rate of 30,000 tons in 1953. In addition, a plant is to be erected by the end of 1953 at the Aluminiumhütte Lautawerk, which will be capable of producing 15,000 tons a year. Thus, the total yearly capacity of the aluminum plants in the DDR should amount to 45,000 tons by the end of 1953.

2) A plant capable of producing 30,000 tons per annum of alumina (Al_2O_3) from bauxite is being erected in the Lautawerk. It is hoped that this will be in operation by 1 October 1951, when it will satisfy the demands of the aluminum plant at Bitterfeld.

3) Later a plant will be erected in Bitterfeld which will produce alumina from the aluminiferous clay (Ton) of the DDR (deposits near Leipzig contain 27% alumina) in sufficient quantities to supply the Bitterfeld aluminum plants. The Lautawerk's bauxite-alumina plant will then supply its aluminum plant.

4) Present yearly production of very pure aluminum (99.99 - 99.999 per cent) cannot amount to more than 100 tons.

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b. Chlorine.

Production in 1950 amounted to about 50,000 tons. It is planned to increase this to 62,000 tons in 1951.

c. Caustic Soda.

Production amounted to about 55,000 tons of 100% pure caustic soda in 1950. It is planned to raise this to 70,000 tons in 1951.

d. Nitrogen.

The 1951 production figures will be approximately the same as the 1950 figures, i.e., 20,000 tons nitrogen, in the form of ammonium nitrate or calcium ammonium nitrate.

e. Distilled calcium.

That produced in Bitterfeld contained about 0.002% Mn and 0.001% Cu. Production was running at the rate of about 50 tons per month until it was stopped completely at the end of November 1950.

f. Yellow phosphorus.

No appreciable change is foreseen in 1951 from the 1950 monthly average production of 100 tons.

g. Graphite electrodes.

Production rose during 1950 from about 500 tons per month to about 650 tons per month.

h. Barium carbonate.

Production has been at the rate of 40 tons per month since July 1950.

i. Potassium permanganate.

Production at present is at the rate of about 120 tons per month. A modern bath is to be installed, and production is then expected to rise to about 160 tons per month.

j. Iron alloys.

Production is about 120 tons per year of ferro-vanadium, ferro-tungsten and ferro-molybdenum, as well as a few tons of ferro-titanium and others. 90,000 DM will be spent on the plant.

k. Steel alloy castings.

About 600 tons of electrodes and magnets were produced in 1950. This is to be raised to 1,000 - 1,200 tons in 1951. Production of permanent magnets (at present Al-Ni-Fe) is to be increased from 2 tons per month to 15 tons per month.

l. Chromic acid.

Production of 10 tons per month is planned to start in 1951.

m. Methylene chloride.

Production of 100-120 tons per month is planned to start in the fourth quarter of 1951.

n. Metallic sodium.

Experiments are in progress. Fifty tons are to be manufactured in the technical plant in 1951. Production of 100 tons per month is planned for later.

o. Hexachlorocyclohexane ($C_6H_6Cl_6$)

Production of 40 tons is planned for 1951, or 2,000 tons of 2% dust during the year.

p. "Bino" soup cubes.

Capacity is 100 tons per month. The small demand means that only about 30 tons are manufactured per month.

q. Washing agents (Silizone).

Production of 900 tons per month is to be raised by about 15 - 20% in 1951.

r. Oxalic acid.

No alteration of the 1950 production rate of 250 tons per month is foreseen.

s. Formic acid.

Production may be started in 1951. Formic acid used to be manufactured before 1945 in the Werk Nord.

t. Titanium white.

Production is to be raised to 80 tons per month during 1951 from the 1950 rate of 30 tons per month.

u. Magnesium.

The production of 4,000 - 5,000 tons in 1952 is being discussed.

v. Other products include:

Aluminum semi-finished articles, aluminum castings, PCU (as foil, Vinidur, etc.), PC, carbon tetrachloride, phosphorus oxychloride ($POCl_3$), tricresyl phosphate, triphenyl phosphate, chlorobenzene, dichlorobenzene, benzoic acid, "Gesarol" (DDT), chloral, potassium chlorate, sodium chlorate, potassium chromate, potassium carbonate, caustic potash, barium chloride, titanium dioxide, "Kombinatkitt" (fire-resistant cement), "Igurite", precious stones, flints, cerium mixtures, magnetite electrodes, ammonium paratungstate, tungstic acid, hydrogen, oxygen.

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3. Shortages affecting the factory and materials required from West-Germany are as follows:

a. There is a serious shortage of every type of trained engineer and chemist, especially of metallurgists. Appreciable numbers of young trained engineers and scientists are not expected to be available before 1952. There is also a shortage of skilled and unskilled workers, and the DDR Government has issued instructions to all publicly owned concerns (VEBs and SAGs) to increase the number of female employees. It is planned to increase the proportion of female workers employed in Bitterfeld from the present figure of about 30% to 43% in 1951.

b. There are no reserve stocks of mercury.

c. About 5,000 tons of alumina (Al_2O_3) will be required by September 1951 for aluminum electrolysis, in addition to assured supplies. Large amounts are to be obtained from the firm Gebrüder Giulini GmbH, Ludwigshafen.

d. 100,000 west marks have been allocated for material for turbine blades in the first quarter 1951.

e. There is a shortage of boiler parts, tubes and "Sicromal" plating for the power station.

f. Parts for the aluminum and sodium electrolysis plants are also in short supply.

g. No stainless steel (V2A) is being made at present in the DDR. It is needed at the Elektrochemisches Kombinat in the nitrogen department and for oxalic acid production.

h. About 100,000 west marks' worth of instruments, laboratory apparatus, etc. will be required in 1951.

i. Platinum-rhodium mesh for catalysis in the nitric acid plant is needed. New mesh has been obtained since 1946 from the Heraeus firm in Hanau in exchange for the old platinum. Stoppage of the delivery of mesh would lead to a serious decrease in the production of nitric acid, since this mesh must also be used in the $Al_2O_3 - Co_3O_4$ catalysis.

j. Nonferrous metals such as zinc, copper, lead, nickel, cobalt, etc. are also in short supply.

k. There are also shortages of methylene chloride which is also required by the Filmfabrik Wolfen and the Celluloidfabrik Eilenburg; metallic sodium from the DEGUSSA firm; softeners and dyes for PCU plastics; and molybdenum, tungsten and vanadium ores for the iron alloys.

4. In 1950, the Elektrochemisches Kombinat received from West-Germany goods worth 4.75 million DM. This figure is increased to 5.6 million DM if direct compensation deals are included. The greater part of this trade was handled by three West-German firms:*

a. Lischke, Hannover, Georgstrasse.

b. Flappert, Duisburg.

c. Dr. Rudzoff, Wiesbaden.

25X1A * [redacted] Comment: These firms cannot be identified. However, the Frankfurt-Wiesbaden telephone directory for 1950 lists a Dr. H. W. Rudloff at 10 Herrngartenstrasse, Wiesbaden.